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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Senate Approval No Tough Hurdle

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Many Senators take their constitutional duty to scrutinize the confirmation qualities of public servants rather lightly these days.

This is especially true of so-called "career" appointees. If a man has served in government before, Senators give him a polite once-over and speed him on to his new job.

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine has been about the only member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to hold up a general's promotion, and Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas and Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon are almost the only Senators who have made a fight against any ambassadorial appointments.

Some people have asked me why, therefore, I have written about the background of John A. McCone, now up for confirmation as chief of Central Intelligence. Their skepticism is justified. A majority of the Senate Armed Services Committee is almost certain to give McCone a polite pat on the shoulder and pass up any thorough investigation of his war profits, quickie airplane contracts, and conflict of interest.

Once before, when Harold Talbot was nominated to be Secretary of the Air Force I laid before Sen. Dick Russell of Georgia, the able chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the scathing record which the late Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes had written on Talbot and war-profits conflict of interest. But the scholarly Georgian decided President Eisenhower had a right to pick his Air Force Chief regardless of the past damning record. Later President Eisenhower was forced to fire Talbot for a new conflict of interest.

The Senate Armed Services Committee includes some very able men. Nevertheless, McCone will probably slip through the Armed Services Committee as easily as he slipped through the Joint Atomic Energy Committee which he was confirmed as atomic chairman.

Capital News Capsules

Fidel Castro complained bitterly to Soviet diplomats last week that Moscow was deserting him in his greatest hour of peril. Twice Castro talked with the Soviet embassy Charge d'Affaires, appealing for more military and economic aid as well as public promises of Soviet backing. But there are signs that the Kremlin has decided that Castro is too wild and unpredictable. And Castro is reported becoming frantic with worry.

Gen. Lucius Clay wants to quit as Kennedy's special representative in Berlin, because he feels hamstrung by the State Department. But the General won't quit, at least for the time being, because his departure would be interpreted in Germany as deserting a sinking ship. General Clay eased his difficulties with Secretary Rusk during his trip back home, but he's still far from satisfied, believes the State Department is forcing him to be too cautious.

Tommy Thompson wants to quit as Ambassador in Moscow too, but is also trapped by the Berlin crisis. After four years in Moscow, Thompson wants a new assignment. But now that



SEN. SMITH

Stars don't come so easily.

he's started negotiations with Foreign Minister Gromyko over Berlin, the State Department has told him he'd better see it through until the end.

New Envoy

President Kennedy has picked Matthew McCloskey, the Democratic treasurer for the interesting post of Ambassador to Ireland.

McCloskey, who is home in Philadelphia and who is one of the big builders in the Eastern Seaboard, has been one of the most faithful money-raisers in the Democratic Party for many years.

The post of Ambassador to Ireland is considered a complacent one, with relatively no problems. The man is a pro-American, and the American Ambassador to Ireland is usually of Irish ancestry. Matt McCloskey is considered an ideal choice for the post.

He will probably be replaced as treasurer of the Democratic National Committee by Edward Maguire, one of the President's close associates in the Boston attorney handling Kennedy's appointments during the campaign.

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